THE NEW 52!
DC COMICS™
19
NIGHTWING™
WHY SO SERIOUS, NIGHTWING?
HA! HA! HA!
JUN 2013
RATED T TEEN
KYLE HIGGINS
BRETT BOOTH
NORM RAPMUND
DCCOMICS.COM

THE NEW 52!
DC COMICS
NIGHTWING
19
WHY SO SERIOUS, NIGHTWING?
WERE YOU EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE?
HA!
ENTER-- THE PRANKSTER!
KYLE HIGGINS
BRETT BOOTH
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JUN 2013

TWO ALPHA SIX--TARGET IS HEADING SOUTH-EAST ON MILWAUKEE, ABOUT TO CROSS FULLERTON! I REPEAT--
--TARGET IS HEADING SOUTHEAST ON MILWAUKEE!
FOUR ECHO SEVEN, THE BUILDING ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF CALIFORNIA IS ABANDONED!
IF HE CROSSES IT, TAKE HIM THERE!
TARGET'S HEADING OVER CALIFORNIA! I'VE GOT A CLEAR SHOT!
THEN WELCOME HIM TO CHICAGO!
BRATA TATATATA TATATAT

DC COMICS PRESENTS: NIGHTWING
SECOND CITY
TITLE HIGGINS WRITER, BRETT BOOTH PENCILLER
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KATIE KUBERT ASSOCIATE EDITOR, MIKE MARTS GROUP EDITOR
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFMAN AND GEORGE PEREZ

THNK
THNK
GAH!
TARGET IS DOWN! I REPEAT, TARGET IS--
--HOLD ON--
--HE'S GETTING BACK UP! THE GUY MUST HAVE SOME KIND OF KEVLAR!
"KEVLAR"? WHO USES KEVLAR ANYMORE...?
CPD
ALL RIGHT, "HERO"-- DOWN ON YOUR KNEES! NOW!
And to think, I wanted to come to Chicago.
"THROUGH THE PASSION, DEDICATION, AND PERSEVERANCE OF THOUSANDS..."

YESTERDAY.
...CHICAGO'S NEW WESTERN STATION IS MORE THAN JUST A REBUILT RAIL LINE.
AND WHILE THERE WILL ALWAYS BE CHALLENGES FACING OUR GREAT CITY--
--THE RECENT *PRANKSTER* CYBER-ATTACKS ILLUSTRATE THAT--
--THE REOPENING OF WESTERN STATION TODAY MARKS THE END OF AN ERA FRAUGHT WITH TRAGEDY.
TODAY'S OPENING REPRESENTS WHAT MANY IN CHICAGO HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THESE LAST FEW YEARS, SINCE THEIR WORLDS WERE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN BY MASKED VIGILANTISM--
--CLOSURE.
SO, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO...
Closure. Maybe the universe really does have a sense of humor.
Tony Zucco, the man who killed my parents, has been dead for years.
SNIP
CLAP
Or at least that's what I thought, until his daughter Sonia showed me an e-mail he sent six months ago.
The account was a throwaway. Red Robin tried to trace it, but all he could crack was the city of origin.
Still, that was enough to get me on the bike heading cross-country.
NO MASKS

Now, I'm in Chicago with two pennies and a Nightwing suit to my name.
With a chance at the closure I never really got.
What more can a hero ask for?
HEY-- GRAYSON, RIGHT?
Besides, you know, a place to sleep.
YEAH... MICHAEL?
OR MIKE. WHICHEVER.
THANKS FOR MEETING ME DOWN HERE. I KNOW THE CROWD TOTALLY SUCKS.
HEY, I GOT TO SEE THE MAYOR ON MY FIRST DAY. THAT'S PRETTY COOL IN MY BOOK.
HA! TRY COVERING HIS PRESS CONFERENCES FOR A YEAR. YOU MAY STOP READING.
HEH.
SO, MY ROOMMATE JOEY'S GONE TWO MONTHS FOR WORK.
YOU CAN SUBLET 'TIL THEN. BUT IF YOU NEED TO STAY LONGER...
NAH, I SHOULDN'T BE IN TOWN MORE THAN A FEW WEEKS.
COOL. ROOM'S IN THE BACK OF THE BUILDING.
YOUR CHECK CLEARED, SO YOU'RE SQUARE ON RENT. WE'LL TALK CABLE AND UTILITIES AT THE END OF THE MONTH.
OH, AND ONE OTHER THING. WITH ALL OF THIS REOPENING TODAY, AND OUR BUILDING BEING JUST UP THE STREET...

"...I'M GONNA APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE FOR THE NOISE."
Cross-country moves suck.
They suck even more when they're last minute and internet apartment listings are your only option.
Obviously, my Nightwing life would be easier without a roommate.
Not much I can do about that, though.
The money I did have burned up with Amusement Mile.
And I'm not about to go to Bruce for anything.
Still, for what I need...this should be enough.
And based on the maps I've seen...
...this place has another perk, too.
SCREEEEEEEEEEE
KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK
KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK

WA-HOOOOOO!

ELSEWHERE...
YOU WIN ONE HAND, AND THAT'S IT?
WHAT KIND OF SCAM ARE YOU RUNNING HERE, SPADE?
BABY, YOU SAID YOU KNEW HIM--
SHH. QUIET, LISA.
MR. HUTCHINSON, THE TERMS OF OUR GAME WERE BUILT AROUND YOUR DESIRE TO LEARN ABOUT CERTAIN CHEMICALS...
...AND MY DESIRE TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR SCHEDULE.
NOW, HAVING LOST OUR GAME... DO YOU REALLY WANT TO CROSS A MAN WHO DEALS IN INFORMATION FOR A LIVING?
...
MONDAY NIGHT. BETWEEN FIVE AND SEVEN.
TRY AGAIN. THIS TIME WITHOUT LYING.
I'M NOT--
YOUR NAME IS CORY HUTCHINSON, AGE TWENTY-EIGHT, MARRIED AND A FATHER OF ONE, A MEMBER OF THE TEAMSTERS UNION...
...AND A COMPULSIVE GAMBLER. I KNOW THOSE RED EYES AREN'T FROM ALLERGIES. AND I ALSO KNOW "LISA" HERE ISN'T YOUR WIFE.
NOW, CONSIDERING HOW EASILY WORDS GET AROUND--TO, SAY, YOUR WIFE OR YOUR BOSS--DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KEEP LYING ABOUT WHAT YOU OWE ME?
SI-SIX TO SEVEN ON TUESDAY MORNING. I DELIVER MY TRUCK ON TUESDAY MORNING.
MUCH BETTER, CORY. MUCH BETTER. NOW, AS WHO FOR "LISA" HERE REALLY IS--

HOLY HELL!
"HOL-Y HELL," HE SAID!
AND BEFORE THE CARD MAN COULD SAY "SURPR SING," SHE SA.D "SURPRIS NG INDEED!"
WHAT THE--?
SURPRIS NG IN-DEED.
ENOUGH WITH THE GAMES! TORTURE HIM! BEAT HIM! MAIM HIM UNTIL HE TELLS US WHAT WE WANT!
NO! THAT'S NOT THE WAY! STAY THE SEDUCTRESS! PLAY HIM! BEAT JOHNNY SPADE AT HIS OWN GAME! IT'S MORE REWARDING!
REWARDING? REWARDING WOULD BE--
--HOW ABOUT WE PLAY A LITTLE GAME OF OUR OWN, JOHNNY SPADE?
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I'M QUITE CERTAIN YOU'RE INSANE.
HM. A LITTLE BLUNT, JOHNNY...
ARH!

...THOUGH I'M PRETTY SURE WE WERE ALL TH.NKING IT.
HELLOOOOO...
CAREFUL! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW H.M!
THUNK
WHOA.
YES, BUT HE'S SO COLORFUL!
SO BRIGHT!

AND SO LOADED WITH GIFTS!
SORRY, NOT FOR YOU.
OH, YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN ME SO MUCH.
"NOT FOR YOU."
"NOT. FOR. YOU."
HEY!
HUH.
HER REAL NAME IS MALI, THOUGH I'M STILL NOT SURE IF IT'S A FIRST OR LAST.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE ACTUALLY MET HER.
SHE'S SOMETHING OF A MIMIC.
A WHAT?
WELL, I'M HAPPY TO EXPLAIN FURTHER...
...IF THE STAKES ARE RIGHT.
ACTUALLY... I CAME HERE FOR SOMETHING ELSE.
OH?
THESE ARE THE FORMER ALIASES OF A MAN NAMED TONY ZUCCO. I WANT TO FIND HIM BEFORE HE KNOWS I'M LOOKING.
I HEAR YOU HAVE A TALENT FOR THAT SORT OF THING.
CUTTER JONES... WILLY THE WHALE...ACE MULDOON...DEAR GOD, THESE ARE TERRIBLE NAMES.
MAN WOULDN'T LAST A WEEK WITH A NAME LIKE THAT IN CHICAGO.
WELL, AS OF SIX MONTHS AGO, HE WAS HERE. I TRACED HIS E-MAIL BACK TO A LOCAL I.S.P.
HM. IF YOU SAY SO. AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU MEET SOMEONE CRAZY ENOUGH TO WEAR A MASK IN THIS TOWN.
MEAN NG?
MEANING, THE NAME OF THE MAN BEHIND THE MASK WOULD MAKE QUITE THE WAGER FOR WHAT YOU'RE ASKING, DON'T YOU THINK?
I THINK THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU FIND.
THIS IS THE POLICE!
Uh-oh.
SURRENDER YOURSELF IMMEDIATELY, OR WE WILL TAKE NECESSARY ACTION!
GUESS THAT'S MY CUE!
I'LL BE IN TOUCH!

Damn.
The point of putting out feelers through Spade was to keep it quiet that I'm here.
GAH!
This...is the opposite of that.
Gotta get out of this fast. Keep the profile as low as possible.
ALL RIGHT, "HERO"-- DOWN ON YOUR KNEES! NOW!
Okay, Grayson... work this out. Which one's gonna hesitate?
Who's the weak link?
gh blink rate
Underdeveloped trigger finger
On second thought...
SCREEEEEEEEEEEE

SORRY, GUYS, GOTTA RUN.
KSSHHH
KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK
I'M TRYIN' TO CUT DOWN ON MY BULLET INTAKE.
THEY'RE, LIKE, THE NEW CARBS.
KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK
IT'S TOTALLY NOTHING PERSONAL. MOSTLY.
UGH!
KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK
PLUS, I'VE GOT A TRAIN TO CATCH.
HERE WE GO.
KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK
SCREEEEEEEEEEEE

KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK
IT'S TOO NARROW! PULL UP!
I GOT IT!
PULL UP! BEFORE YOU HIT--
SHAKAKAKAKA
I REPEAT, WE RE--
IT'S TOO LATE! COME ON!
MAYDAY! MAYDAY! WE'RE HEADING RIGHT FOR WESTERN STATION!

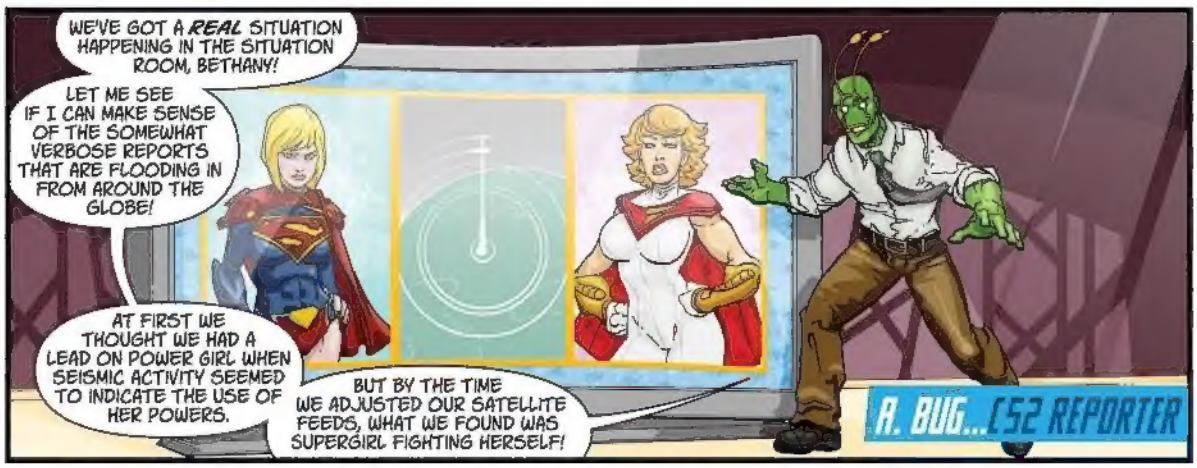
BOOM
OHGOD OHGODOH GOD...
OOF!
GHN!
WELL, THAT'S KIND OF LOW PROFILE...
"THE ELECTRONIC TIP TO THE POLICE, REGARDING THIS...NIGHTWING'S LOCATION..."

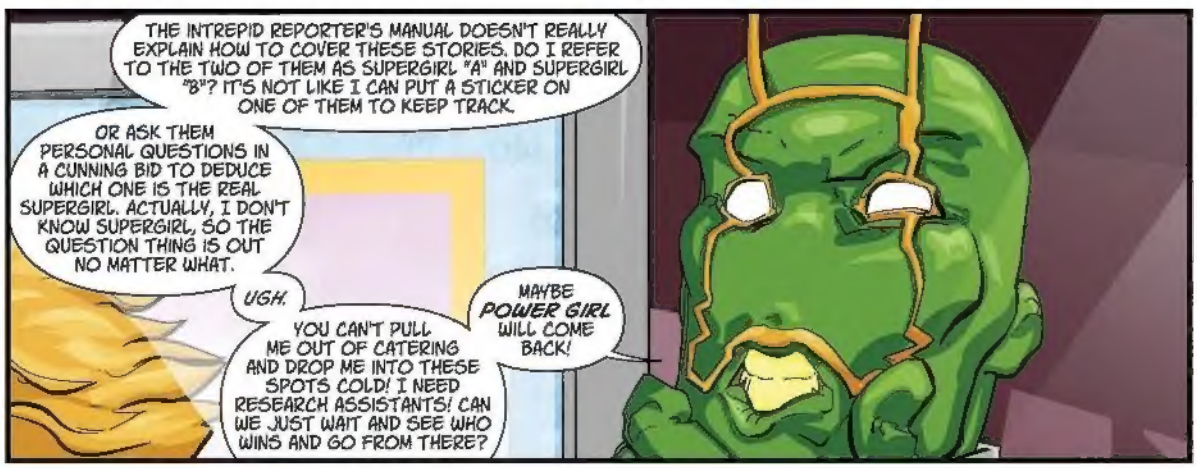
...WE THINK IT CAME FROM THE PRANKSTER?
YES, MR. MAYOR.
HM. WELL, SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT HIS COMPUTER ACTIVITIES...AT LEAST HE'S NOT RUNNING AROUND IN A COSTUME AND A MASK.
WITH THE WESTERN STATION BEING DESTROYED BY MASKS BEFORE, AND NOW THIS NIGHTWING BEING INVOLVED IN WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT...
...I WONDER WHAT THAT SAYS ABOUT CLOSURE?
HM.
OH, ONE OTHER THING.
THERE'S A SHAKEDOWN GAMBLER ON THE WEST SIDE, GOES BY THE NAME OF JOHNNY SPADE.
FROM WHAT I'M HEARING, JOHNNY'S LOOKING FOR SOME GUY BY THE NAME OF TONY ZUCCO, AT THE BEHEST OF THIS NIGHTWING.
MAYBE WE CAN FIND ZUCCO FIRST?
TALK TO COMMISSIONER RACINE TOMORROW, MARCUS. HAVE HIM PUT SOME DETECTIVES ON IT.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, MR. MAYOR.
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THIS, TONY?
WHAT I THINK, MR. MAYOR...
...IS CLOSURE'S A TOUGH THING TO GET.

THE NEXT MORNING,
AT CHICAGO STEELWORKS
ALDERMAN ANTHONY LANE. HUSBAND. FATHER OF TWO. A CIVIC LEADER.
A LIAR.
Whazzut?
A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHES.
A MAN WHO'S MADE SIZABLE INCOME FROM CHILD TRAFFICKING.
I DON'T... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...?
...THIS IS ALL THE MONEY I'VE MADE FROM THAT! IN HUNDRED-DOLLAR BILLS!
IF YOU'RE THE PRANKSTER, THEN THIS IS WHAT WE AGREED TO!
I'VE JUST RELEASED YOUR GUEST.
EH. I'VE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART, ALDERMAN.
THE LIGHTER AT YOUR FEET. PICK IT UP AND STRIKE IT.
QUICKLY.
HOLY--!
RAAWRLL

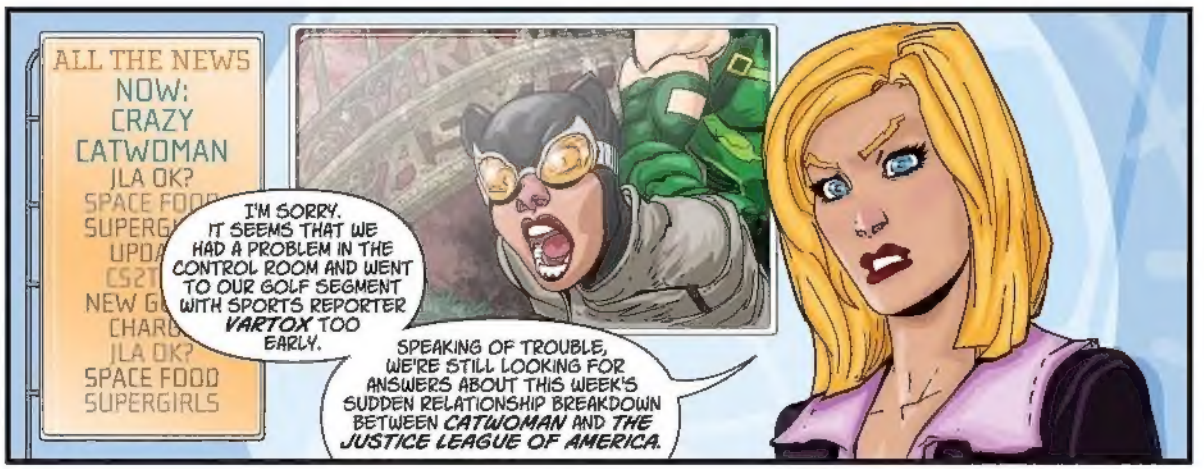
HELP! SOMEBODY HELP ME!
RRRRRRRR
IN FIFTY-SEVEN MINUTES, I WILL CALL THE POLICE. THEY'LL BE HERE IN EXACTLY ONE HOUR. NOW... LIKE MOST ANIMALS, THE WOLF IS HESITANT AROUND FIRE.
AND A SINGLE BILL OF U.S. CURRENCY TAKES ROUGHLY ONE MINUTE TO BURN.
THERE YOU GO, ALDERMAN. THE AMOUNT IN THAT BRIEFCASE WILL BURN FOR JUST OVER AN HOUR...
ASSUMING YOUR IDEA OF HOW MUCH YOU'VE MADE AND MY IDEA OF HOW MUCH YOU'VE MADE ARE THE SAME.
YOU-YOU SAID I COULD BUY MY LI-LIFE BACK!
YES, ALDERMAN, AND IT'S UP TO YOU FOR HOW LONG. OTHERWISE...
...WHERE'S THE PRANK?
NEXT ISSUE:
WHO PRANKS THE PRANKSTER?

THIS IS BETHANY SNOW FOR CHANNEL 52 NEWS!
WE'RE INTERRUPTING OUR REGULAR PROGRAMMING TO BRING YOU COVERAGE OF A CURRENT SITUATION!
IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT WE ARE GETTING ACCOUNTS OF SUPERGIRL BATTLING ANOTHER SUPERGIRL!
LET'S GO TO THE SITUATION ROOM WHERE OUR REPORTER A. BUG IS RECEIVING THE LATEST REPORTS!
CHANNEL 52
BETHANY SNOW...CS2 ANCHOR


WE'VE GOT A REAL SITUATION HAPPENING IN THE SITUATION ROOM, BETHANY!
LET ME SEE IF I CAN MAKE SENSE OF THE SOMEWHAT VERBOSE REPORTS THAT ARE FLOODING IN FROM AROUND THE GLOBE!
AT FIRST WE THOUGHT WE HAD A LEAD ON POWER GIRL WHEN SEISMIC ACTIVITY SEEMED TO INDICATE THE USE OF HER POWERS.
BUT BY THE TIME WE ADJUSTED OUR SATELLITE FEEDS, WHAT WE FOUND WAS SUPERGIRL FIGHTING HERSELF!
A. BUG...CS2 REPORTER


THE INTREPID REPORTER'S MANUAL DOESN'T REALLY EXPLAIN HOW TO COVER THESE STORIES. DO I REFER TO THE TWO OF THEM AS SUPERGIRL "A" AND SUPERGIRL "B"? IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN PUT A STICKER ON ONE OF THEM TO KEEP TRACK.
OR ASK THEM PERSONAL QUESTIONS IN A CUNNING BID TO DEDUCE WHICH ONE IS THE REAL SUPERGIRL. ACTUALLY, I DON'T KNOW SUPERGIRL, SO THE QUESTION THING IS OUT NO MATTER WHAT.
UGH.
YOU CAN'T PULL ME OUT OF CATERING AND DROP ME INTO THESE SPOTS COLD! I NEED RESEARCH ASSISTANTS! CAN WE JUST WAIT AND SEE WHO WINS AND GO FROM THERE?
MAYBE POWER GIRL WILL COME BACK!

DID HE SAY POWER GIRL?
HEY!
HE SAID POWER GIRL!


ALL THE NEWS
NOW:
CRAZY
CATWOMAN
JLA OK?
SPACE FOOD
SUPERGIRLS
UPDATE
CS2TWO
NEW GUY IN
CHARGE
JLA OK?
SPACE FOOD
SUPERGIRLS
I'M SORRY. IT SEEMS THAT WE HAD A PROBLEM IN THE CONTROL ROOM AND WENT TO OUR GOLF SEGMENT WITH SPORTS REPORTER VARTOX TOO EARLY.
SPEAKING OF TROUBLE, WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR ANSWERS ABOUT THIS WEEK'S SUDDEN RELATIONSHIP BREAKDOWN BETWEEN CATWOMAN AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

ALL THE NEWS
NOW:
CRAZY
CATWOMAN
JLA OK?
SPACE FOOD
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UPDATE
CS2TWO
NEW GUY IN
CHARGE
JLA OK?
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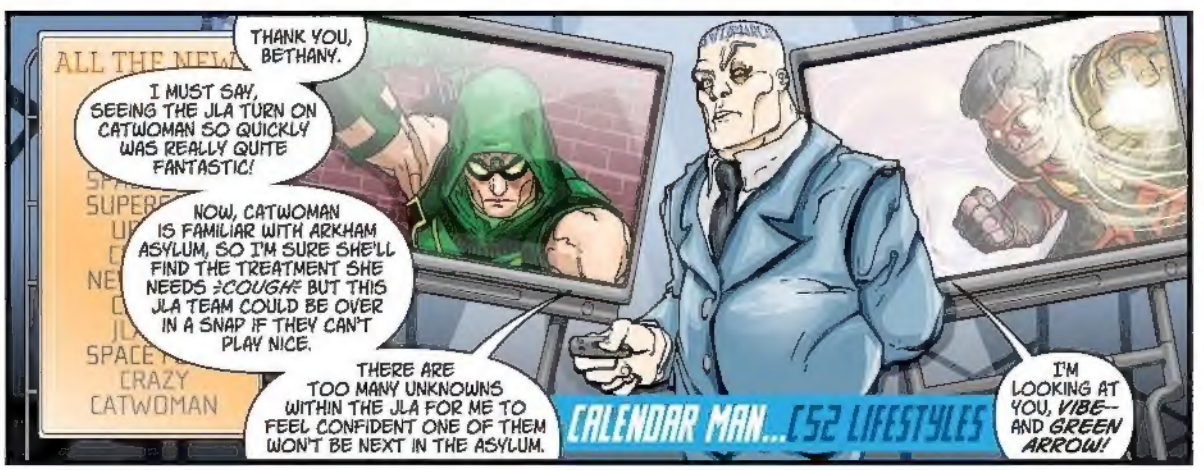
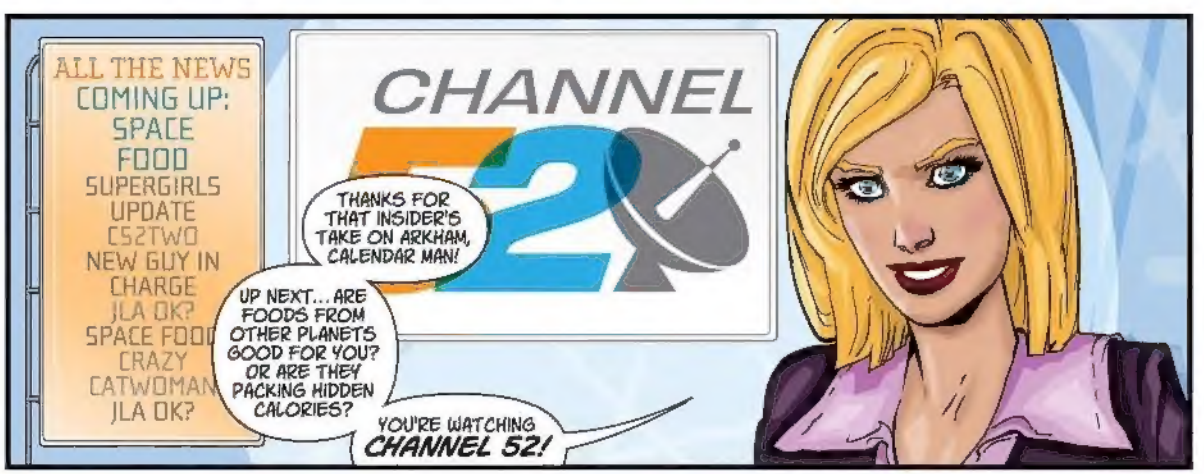
SUPERGIRLS
CATWOMAN'S PRESUMED TEAM-UP WITH THE JLA CAME TO AN ABRUPT END AS SHE WAS FORCIBLY ADMITTED INTO GOTHAM CITY'S ARKHAM ASYLUM.
FOR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TO THE JLA, LET'S GO TO OUR LIFESTYLES REPORTER, CALENDAR MAN!


THANK YOU, BETHANY.
I MUST SAY, SEEING THE JLA TURN ON CATWOMAN SO QUICKLY WAS REALLY QUITE FANTASTIC!
NOW, CATWOMAN IS FAMILIAR WITH ARKHAM ASYLUM, SO I'M SURE SHE'LL FIND THE TREATMENT SHE NEEDS *COUGH* BUT THIS JLA TEAM COULD BE OVER IN A SNAP IF THEY CAN'T PLAY NICE.
THERE ARE TOO MANY UNKNOWNS WITHIN THE JLA FOR ME TO FEEL CONFIDENT ONE OF THEM WON'T BE NEXT IN THE ASYLUM.
CALENDAR MAN...CS2 LIFESTYLES
I'M LOOKING AT YOU, VIBE-- AND GREEN ARROW!


ALL THE NEWS
COMING UP:
SPACE
FOOD
SUPERGIRLS
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CS2TWO
NEW GUY IN
CHARGE
JLA OK?
SPACE FOOD
CRAZY
CATWOMAN
JLA OK?
CHANNEL 2
THANKS FOR THAT INSIDER'S TAKE ON ARKHAM, CALENDAR MAN!
UP NEXT... ARE FOODS FROM OTHER PLANETS GOOD FOR YOU? OR ARE THEY PACKING HIDDEN CALORIES?
YOU'RE WATCHING CHANNEL 52!

NAHGA